

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11348

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: MORE ON THE ORLOV TRIAL

REF: MOSCOW 11264

1. PRAVDA AND OTHER CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS MAY 21 CARRIED
TASS ITEM PURPORTING TO GIVE BASIC FACTS IN CASES OF ORLO
GAMSAKHURDIA, AND KOSTAVA. FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF ITEM
STRIKE US AS NOTEWORTHY:

--TASS, WITH TYPICAL AUDACITY, CLAIMS ORLOV TRIAL WAS
OPEN;

--ITEM STATES THAT "ORLOV WAS IN CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES
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TATIVES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND THROUGH THEM TRANS
TRANSMITTED TO ANTI-SOVIET CENTERS ABROAD MATERIALS OF
A SLANDEROUS NATURE";

--TASS SAYS GAMSAKHURDIA ADMITTED THAT HE SYSTEMATICALLY
TRANSMITTED THROUGH "FOREIGNERS FROM CAPITALIST COUNTRIES
INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA", SLANDEROUS MATERIAL INTENDED FOR
SUBVERSIVE CENTERS ABROAD;

--"GAMSAKHURDIA ALSO NAMED", TASS CONTINUES, "FIRST
SECRETARY OF THE US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW BELOUSOVITCH, WHO
PROVIDED HIM WITH ANTI-SOVIET MATERIALS FOR DISTRIBUTION
TO THE TERRITORY OF THE USSR."

THUS ONE OF THE MESSAGES OF THE TASS PIECE FOR ITS SOVIET
AUDIENCE IS TO BE WARY OF FOREIGNERS FROM CAPITALIST
COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE USA.

2. TASS OF COURSE MAKES NO REFERENCE TO ORLOV'S AIM OF
MONITORING SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH THE CSCE FINAL ACT.
TASS' VAGUE REFERENCE TO HIS CONTACT WITH "REPRESENTATIVE
OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS" PROBABLY STEMS FROM THE FACT
THAT THE ORLOV GROUP ADDRESSED ITS DOCUMENTS TO ALL
GOVERNMENTS THAT SIGNED THE FINAL ACT.

3. ASIDE FROM THE PRAVDA EDITORIAL REPORTED REFTTEL, THE
ONLY OTHER WEEKEND PRESS COVERAGE RELATED TO THE ORLOV
TRIAL WAS MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA'S PUBLISHING ON MAY 20
OF THREE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR REGARDING THE CASE. WRITT
RESPECTIVELY BY A FACTORY WORKER, A LIBRARIAN, AND DIRECT
OF THE KARPOV PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY INSTITUTE ACADEMICIAN
YA. KOLOTYRKIN, THE LETTERS ARE PREDICABLY FULL OF "ANGER
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AND INDIGNATION" AND ARE, SAYS MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, REPRESENTATIVE OF MANY LETTERS ON ORLOV RECEIVED BY THE PAPER.
IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE A PARTICULARLY DEFENSIVE PASSAGE,
KOLOTYRKIN WRITES THAT "THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY OF THE SO-
CALLED 'SCIENTIST' YU. F. ORLOV CAN ONLY GIVE RISE TO
CONTEMPT AND CONDEMNATION AMONG MOSCOW SCIENTISTS."

4. ON THE TRIAL ITSELF, WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHAIRMAN OF
THE MOSCOW ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS APRAKSIN WAS PRESENT
FOR AT LEAST ONE FULL DAY, PRESUMABLY TO BE ABLE TO TELL
HIS WESTERN COLLEAGUES THAT "SOCIALIST LEGALITY" WAS FULLY
OBSERVED. MATLOCK

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